(a) whether the cost of oil imports has gone up substantially during the last three years;

(b) if so, the value of imports and the quantity imported during the last five years;

(c) the percentage of value of oil imports to the total value of imports during the same period; and

(d) the steps taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) The quantity and value of oil imports and its percentage to the total value of imports during the last five years are given below:—

(Qty. 000Tones, Value: Rs. Lakhs)

Year	Quantity	Value	Percentage of value Oil imports to total imports
1994-95	41.300	17837.74	19.80
1995-96	47677	24094.85	19.60
1996-97	54171	34171.68	24.60
1997-98	54024	28329.07	18.62
1998-99	58588	24712.48	14.03

(d) In order to meet our domestic demand through domestic availability of petroleum products, Government has taken action for expansion of existing refining capacity and has approved setting up of new refineries in Public, Private and Joint Sectors. The country has become near self-sufficient in refinery capacity.

Trade Surplus

1050. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to achieve trade surplus instead of trade deficits in the next three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, how many more years we are expected to have trade deficits and how much deficit is expected for the next three years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) Continuous efforts are being made to increase our exports to have favourable balance of trade. A number of steps have been taken to promote exports which include reduction in transaction cost through decentralization and simplification of procedures and various other measures as enumerated in the Exim Policy. Steps have also been taken to promote exports through multilateral and bilateral initiatives, identification of thrust sectors and focus regions.

Sick industries in India

1051. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of sick industries in India for the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the number of workers involved in these sick-industries;

(c) the total amount of bank loans given to these sick Industries; and

(d) the causes of sickness of these industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (c) Data on sick industrial units assisted by banks in the country is compiled by the Reserve Bank of India. As per the latest available report, State-wise details of sick industrial units are given in the Statement. *(See* below). As at the end of March, 1998 the position of industrial sickness in the country and outstanding bank credit are as follow:—

(Rs. in crore)

Category	No. of units	Outstanding Bank Credit
1. SSI sick	221536	3856.64
2. Non-SSI sick/weak	2476	11825.25
Total	224012	15681.89

According to Performance Review 1998 of the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), 15,08,386 workers were involved in 2454 companies registered upto 31.12.98 with BIFR under Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985.